



Oneida County Health Department

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Media Release

For Immediate Distribution

Aug. 23, 2006

Re: Deceptive “advisory” letter mailed to food establishment in Oneida County

The Oneida County Health Department became aware today of an “advisory” letter that was received by mail on Aug. 21 by at least one local restaurant operator in the Rhineland area. The letter solicits money for hand-washing “posters,” and states: “Any Food Service Establishment...by willfully failing to post approved hand washings [sic] posters may be subject to fines up to \$2500 and suspension or revocation of license, as well as possible civil liability actions.”

The Oneida County Health Department does not charge restaurants or the public for hand-washing signs. They are available for free by request or on the department’s environmental health Web site. The department would also never suspend or revoke any food establishments’ permit to operate, even if such a violation was repeatedly observed.

The letter in question is dated Aug. 16, and is similar to other letters that have been distributed throughout Wisconsin. The letter also indicates the attached “order form” be mailed to:

Wisconsin Food Service Compliance Center
1360 Regent Street #161
Madison, WI 53715
1-800-870-2669

To obtain free signs or other food-related publications, visit the Oneida County Health Department’s Web page at: www.co.oneida.wi.gov

Click on the “Public Health” and “Environmental Health” links to view or print the free signs.

Contact: Todd Troskey, Registered Sanitarian
(715) 369-6223

***Oneida County Health Department will promote and protect the health of
Oneida County by providing leadership, education and services.***